

Chief's Update March 4, 2011

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

This week, the City Manager hosted the first of three employee forums during which the City Manager, Finance Manager and Human Resources Manager presented information on our current budget situation.

In essence, there is cautiously optimistic news for community members and employees across the City. In the words of our City Manager, "It appears that we have reached a point of stability."

Long-term sustainability does remain a concern, and several dynamic factors that could impact the budget process remain to be determined. The factor that could have the biggest negative impact includes the potential for the State of Arizona to reduce municipal state shared revenues. As was noted during the meeting, to date there is no known current legislation pending that would impact the state shared revenues.

After the initial information was presented during today's forum, the following 60 minutes consisted of a Q & A period that covered topics ranging from furloughs to the impact of development on public safety to retirement benefits. Relevant budget documents and videos of the materials presented to the City Council can be viewed at www.tempe.gov/BudgetPlan/default.htm.

I encourage all employees to talk with their supervisors and make an effort to attend one of the upcoming forums. Whether or not you are able to attend, please take the opportunity to provide feedback at www.tempe.gov/BudgetPlan/feedback.htm. The comments submitted will be collated and posted on the website.

Wednesday, March 23 7-9 a.m. Field Services Assembly Hall 55 S. Priest Drive

Monday, March 28 1-3 p.m. City Council Chambers 31 E. Fifth Street

As we move forward in this process, I can assure you that we will continue to work closely and cooperatively with the employee groups, our community, and our Mayor and Council. The Executive Team, the PD Office of Budget and Management, and Command Staff are all deeply committed to assuring that our organization has the resources necessary to continue providing for the safety and security of our community now and into the future.

Over the past year, throughout the reorganization and despite the loss of positions within our organization, I know that you have all been impacted as a result of furloughs

and taking on additional responsibilities. Thank you for continuing to provide the excellent service our community expects and deserves. I want you to know that your efforts do not go unnoticed, and are greatly appreciated.

To that point, the City just received the Community Survey results, and the Police Department favored extremely well. Tempe community members affirmed that public safety is their #1 priority, as well as being overall quite satisfied with our performance. I will be providing additional information on the community survey in my next Chief's Update.

Thank you for your hard work, your dedication and your support.

Sincerely,

Tom